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MUSIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION - NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Newsletter # 21
March, 1974

SPRING MEETING: Friday, April 26, 1974 at Boston Public Library.

9:00 A.M. Meet at Boston Public Library. Enter on Boylston St, descend to Coucourse and enter Room 5 for registration, coffee, donuts, and tour of Music Dept. A more extensive tour is planned for the late afternoon.

Recommended PARKING in lots near the library. Such lots are on the corner of Boylston and Exeter Sts., on Blogden St. behind the Library, and at the Lord & Taylor Garage on Exeter St.

10:00-11:00 Mr. H. Earle Johnson, noted teacher and scholar of American music, will speak.

11:00-12:30 Museum of Fine Arts. Barbara Lambert will guide us on a tour of the Musical Instruments Collection.

12:30-1:30 Lunch at the Museum.

2:00-3:00 Nicholas Tawa will speak on music publication in America, 1790-1860. Professor Tawa, whose current field of interest is American parlor song of this period, is Chairman of the Music Department at U Mass (Boston).

3:00-4:30 Business meeting. Presentation of a bibliography (Sarah Libbey). MLA Midwinter Summation. Bicentennial ideas.

4:30-5:30 Tour. John Doherty, engineer for the BPL's new addition, will take us through, around, under,and over areas unknown to the casual or musical visitor.

5:30-6:30 Reception (and sherry!) Philip McNiff, Director of the Boston Public Library, will be our host.

MEMBERSHIP DUES. Dues for 1973-4 are $3.00. If you have not paid, please use the form in this newsletter as indicated.

SUBSCRIPTION TO NEWSLETTER. If you do not wish to join NEMLA, but do wish to receive the newsletter for next year, please send $1.00 as indicated on the form.

1974-1975 OFFICERS. The nominating committee of NEMLA respectfully submits the following slate of officers to be voted upon at the spring meeting:

Chairman: Robert Loud
Concord Free Library, Concord, Mass.

Vice-Chairman: Joyce Clinkscales
New England Conservatory of Music, Boston, Mass.

Secretary-Treasurer: Laura Scarlett
Medford Public Library, Medford, Mass.

Member-at-Large: Isabel Clark
Music Library, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

FALL MEETING SUMMARY

The fall 1973 meeting of NEMLA was held on Saturday, October 27, 1973, at Connecticut College, with Joseph Scott as host. It was attended by the following people: Mary Ankudowich (Smith), Jeannine Ayotte (NEC), Ethel Bacon (U of Hartford), Ruth Bleecker (BPL), Dorothy M. Bognar and Phillip Bognar (U Conn, Storrs), Lois Bowers (URI), Natalie Breed (BPL), Elizabeth Burnett (NEC), Dale C. Carr (Dartmouth College), Joyce Clinkscales (NEC), Kathleen Cooper (Conn. College), Edith Godel (W Conn State Coll), Mary Lou Little (Harvard), Robert Loud (Concord PL), Jean Morrow (NEC), C. Gerald Parker (BPL), Prof. Kenneth Roberts (Williams College), Laura Scarlett (Medford PL), Joseph Scott and Jane Scott (Conn College) Kitty Skrobela (Middlebury College), Linda Solow (MIT), Barbara Winchester (NEC), and Max Schaffner of Peters, International.

Registration began at 9:30 A.M. The day's program, a "nuts and bolts" discussion of the various practical questions listed in the last newsletter, was taped by Dorothy and Phillip Bognar.

National MLA meeting, reported by Linda Solow, included:

Warm dialogue between music librarian and music faculty member.
Bibliography and discography of minority groups: Black, Chicano, and Indian.
Computers, cataloging, and book catalogs.

Administrative questions, fielded by Kitty Skrobela, concerned the structure of the music library, relative numbers of professional and student workers; relationship to central library and to music faculty. Numbers and problems vary, for instance, Harvard has many house libraries not listed in the main catalog. They recommend Library Bindery Co., 271 West Park St., Springfield, Mass.

We discussed the problem of communication with the music faculty, especially when the music library is separate from the main library, and when there are no established channels of communication and the music faculty seems uninterested. Responses to this problem included A) affirmation of the importance of the librarian's attendance at faculty meetings and inclusion in faculty deliberations B) librarian must be a crusader, to find out in advance what's going on; C) a politick lunch date or cocktail might help D) helpfulness of going to Library meetings; E) suggestion to ask the National MLA to publish some standards that would help us confront music faculties and administrations. Exact wording was not decided upon, but the sentiment is expressed by the following:

WHEREAS, we cannot be effective librarians without close communication with music faculty, and
WHEREAS, new areas of vital interest to the library (such as proposed new courses) are discussed at faculty meetings,
BE IT RESOLVED: that music library staff should be represented at faculty meetings.

It was pointed out that many such problems disappear if you have faculty status.

Acquisitions questions, chaired by Joe Scott, included discussion of blanket orders (often they don't work), and foreign ordering (Horowitz is good at holding orders until the item actually gets printed; Mr. Diamond of Oxford U. Press is a helpful person; costs of air shipment, paid by customer, are high, but if you don't choose air, you lose the time advantage of ordering from foreign distributor and might as well go through a U.S. distributor).

Joe shared his acquisitions list with us: Baker & Taylor (NJ), EBS Book Service (Lynbrook, NY), Yankee Book Pedlar (University Presses), Oxford U. Press, S. Hattner, NY, Adlers (NY), Max Hueber)Munich), Blackwells (Oxford, England), Blanchetan (Paris), Eliseo Torres (NY, for Spanish and South American Publications). Also mentioned were Eastern (NEC & MIT like it); Abel, Kent State U Press, and MENC (these involve problems). Dartmouth uses a music specialist and only has to deal with one supplier.

ILL vs. purchase. ILL is becoming less popular, at least with large libraries which supply more information than they receive. Fogg will not accept ILL; Peabody charges $5 per item. In the Midwest Association, there is no per-item charge, only an initial fee. The Center for Research Libraries is good at foreign dissertations, periodicals, etc., though it takes some time.

Luncheon on campus was followed by a delightful recital, given by soprano Kathleen Arecchi, accompanied by pianist Kathleen Cooper.

Keeping up with imports. Mr. Schaffner had many suggestions:
For out-of-print records, try Discophile, 8th St., NYC
Music Masters, on W. 43rd St., NYC
Also, a store on 7th Ave and 51st St. specializes in show tunes
Louis Lane lives in Boston and has thousands of 78's.
Other sources: Ed Durbeck, Beacon Book & Music Shoppe, corner of Myrtle and Joy St, Boston, has many collectors items, and H.R. Smith of Philadelphia is a good source.

Catalog questions, chaired by C. Gerald Parker. Central to this is the new ISBD (LC Cataloging Bulletin #105 gives samples). So far, LC plans to adopt ISBD for books about music, but not yet for scores and recordings. YAML is working on the project. MLA is considering sending a representative.
LC buys all of Peters International classical and ethnic records so any difficulty finding them in LC catalogs must be due to their famous ferocious backlog.

(OVER)

(please return this portion by April 16, 1974)

Name _____ Mailing address _____

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Institution _____ _____

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Registration for spring meeting $ 5.00 _____ (includes lunch, coffee, sherry)
1973-4 Dues $3.00 _____
Newsletter Subscription $1.00 _____ (Not necessary for members)

Make checks payable to Music Library Association, New England Chapter.
Mail to: Laura Scarlett
Medford Public Library
111 High St.
Medford, Mass. 02155

Questions concerning listening assignments were chaired by Linda Solow. The problem is, many students all needing the same thing at the same time. Ideas:

Get permission to tape, by giving publisher publicity in form of printed syllabus.
Listening in groups.
Campus radio station, especially for exam material the night before the exam.
Multiple copies, various kinds of circulation restrictions, policy curbing faculty privileges, are other ways of coping, though each has its own difficulties.

Questions concerning Audio Equipment were chaired by Dorothy Bognar. Getting service for equipment is a major problem for everyone. Advised to insist on service contract before purchase of new equipment.
Library Technical Reports, a service of ALA, costs about $200/yr and is excellent, though it may not include A/V.

Misc., end-of-day questions and topics.

Q 9. Microfilm from overseas: policies vary. Usually the library owning the ms. will provide a microfilm copy. NYPL might be helpful. The Kassel microform collection in Germany has a published catalog.

Q. 14. Using an acoustical horn with a microphone to tape acoustical discs (such as "hill and dale" with vertical grooves instead of lateral ones) is a good idea.

Q. 10. Keeping up. There is an article by Marvin Skilkin of the Orange Public Library, in The Unabashed Librarian, which includes a list of standard reference works and the months in which they need to be updated.

Anyone encountering sticky questions and problems is welcome to send the question to Rob Loud - the questions will be sent to the membership and perhaps discussed at a future meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Scarlett
Acting Secretary

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